

Appl. No. 09/995,319
Amdt. Dated December 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0246
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the final Office Action of August 9, 2005, claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,552,324 of Kothari et al. Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,552,324 of Kothari et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,686,957 of Johnson et al.

In Applicant's Response to Final Office Action filed on November 9, 2005, arguments were submitted with respect to the Kothari et al. and Johnson et al. references, and claims 1-12 and 16-20 were submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over such references in their present form. The individual claims were then discussed.

In a subsequent Advisory Action which was mailed on November 22, 2005, the Examiner responds to Applicant's arguments on pages 2 and 3 thereof. More particularly, transistors M1A, M1B, M2A and M2B are said to amplify an input voltage (V_{input}) and output an amplified voltage (V_{output}), wherein the devices M1A and M1B share a common current source VDD2 (col. 3, line 56 – col. 4, line 9) and therefore acts as a source follower amplification circuit. It is further pointed out therein that claim 1 recites "a load transistor connected between the amplification transistor and a first power source for causing a constant current to flow from the amplification transistor to the side of the first power source; a control transistor connected between the amplification transistor and a second power source, wherein the control transistor controls a current flowing from the second power source to the amplification transistor according to a control signal". Thus, claim 1 is regarded as defining a constant current flowing from an amplification transistor to a first power source and a current flowing from the second power

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source to the amplification transistor. According to the Advisory Action, the claim limitation of a current flowing never refers back to the previous recited constant current. Therefore, the claim does not require the two currents to be the same. Still further with respect to Applicant's argument that Kothari does not teach an output control circuit connected to a gate of a control transistor for outputting the control signal for reducing a current flowing from the second power source to the amplification transistor during a period in which a pixel signal is not read, the Advisory Action refers to portions of Kothari which are said to contradict this.

In response to this, claims 1, 7, 19 and 20 are being amended in order to more clearly distinguish patentably over the cited references. The claim amendments should clarify the relationship between "a current flowing (from the second power source)" and "a constant current", taking into account the Examiner's statements in the Advisory Action. As now defined in the claims, the source follower amplification circuit of the present invention clearly differs from the circuit of Kothari.

Thus, as amended herein, claim 1 defines a charge transfer device in which a load transistor is connected between the amplification transistor and a first power source for causing a constant current to flow from the amplification transistor to the side of the first power source ", so as to function as a constant current source". A control transistor is connected between the amplification transistor and a second power source, wherein the control transistor controls a current flowing from the second power source to the amplification transistor according to a control signal ", to thereby control the current flowing from the amplification transistor to the side of the first power source". As so amended, claim 1 is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the cited art.

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Similar comments apply to claims 7, 19 and 20 which are being amended in a fashion similar to claim 1. As amended, claim 7 includes "means for controlling a current flowing from a second power source of the means for receiving and outputting according to a control signal connected between the means for receiving and outputting and the second power source, to thereby control the current flowing from the means for receiving and outputting to the side of the first power source".

And as amended herein, claim 19 includes a load transistor connected between the amplification transistor and a first power source for causing a constant current to flow from the amplification transistor to the side of the first power source "so as to function as a constant current source". A control transistor is connected between the amplification transistor and a second power source, for controlling a current flowing from the second power source to the amplification transistor according to a control signal, to thereby control the current flowing from the amplification transistor to the side of the first power source". Claim 20 is being amended in a manner similar to claim 19.

In conclusion, claims 1, 7, 19 and 20 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art. Similarly, claims 2-6 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all of the limitations of claim 1 so as to distinguish patentably over the art. Claims 8-12 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all of the limitations of claim 7 so as to distinguish patentably over the art. Likewise, claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 7 and contain all of the limitations thereof so as to distinguish patentably over the art. Claim 18 depends from and contains all of the limitations of claim 1 so as to distinguish patentably over the art.

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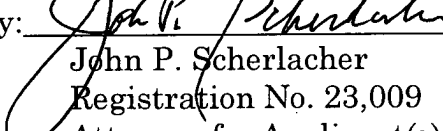
In conclusion, claims 1-12 and 16-20 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6846 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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